



BUBBLEGUM CRISIS

GRAND
MAL

Manga

BUBBLEGUM
CRISIS
2 OF 4

\$2.50 US
\$3.40 CAN



BUBBLEGUM CRISIS™

GRAND MAL

ADAM WARREN

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BOOK DESIGN

BACKGROUND:

"MegaTokyo," AD 2031. Six years after the devastating Second Kanto Earthquake, the rebuilt city of Tokyo stands as a symbol of the wealth and power of the commercial behemoth that dominates it, the supranational Genom Corporation.

Genom's best-known products are the "Boomers," biomechanical humanoid constructs combining the power of a mechanized form with some of the intellectual faculties of a human being. Initially developed by the brilliant Dr. Stingray to aid humans in the exploration of space, the Boomers have since been redefined for warfaring roles by Genom (with an eye to the lucrative arms trading).

Disastrous incidents involving rogue Boomers have plagued MegaTokyo for some time, finally leading to the formation of the Armored Defense Police as a response. Though well equipped with an arsenal of helicopter gunships and armored vehicles, the ADPolice have nonetheless had only limited success in dealing with Boomer rampages.

In contrast; a less official (and often more effective) counter to the Boomer threat is offered by a shadowy group known as the Knight Sabers. Sometimes operating as mercenaries, more often as vigilantes, these high-tech commandos use powered-armor "hardsuits" to battle renegade Boomers and similar menaces.

The Knight Sabers' leader is Sylvia Stingray, the daughter of slain Boomer creator Dr. Stingray. Up-and-coming "retrothrash" singer Priss (who bears an extreme hatred of Genom), and fitness instructor Lina Yamazaki provide much of the team's "fighting edge"; the less combat-skilled Nene Romanova serves as the group's computer and electronics expert, in addition to working as a dispatcher for the beleaguered ADPolice. The Sabers are also assisted by Sylvia's younger brother Mackie, who provides technical and engineering support for the team.

THE STORY SO FAR:

Deep within the ruins of one of MegaTokyo's as-yet-unrepaired districts, a Genom-built combat Boomer battles a hive of bizarre-looking mechanical opponents. After seizing a software "memory module" from the mechs, the Boomer evades retaliation and flies off, only to encounter an ADPolice aerial patrol. Before long, ADPolice gunships and their Boomer prey are playing a highly destructive game of Hide-and-Seek across the city, which comes to an end when the Knight Sabers arrive on the scene and easily dispatch the biomechanical marauder. As the Sabers depart from the rooftop battleground, however, they fail to take notice of the "memory module" the Boomer was carrying...

LINNA



PRISS



SYLIA



NENE



PUBLISHER MIKE RICHARDSON

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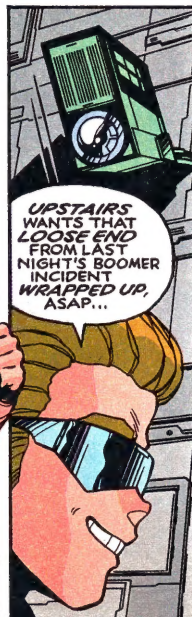
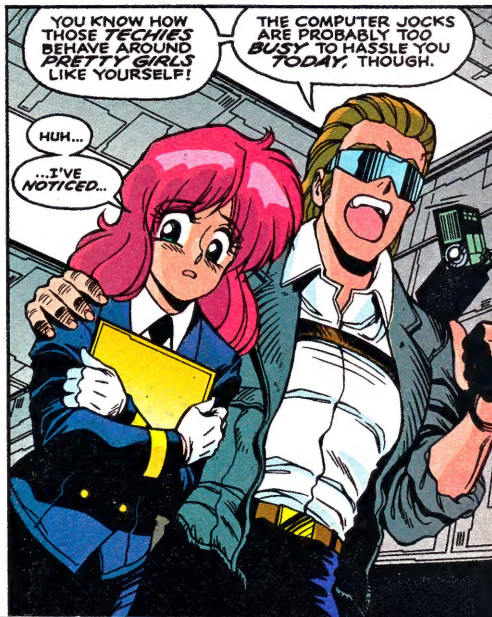
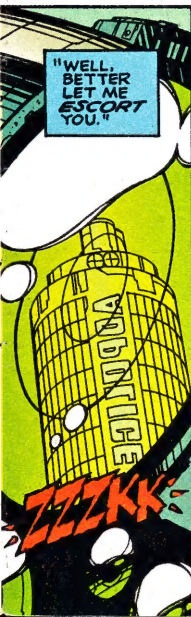
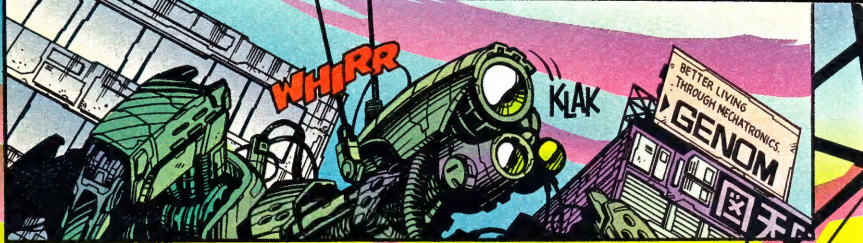
EDITORIAL COORDINATOR JERRY PROSSER

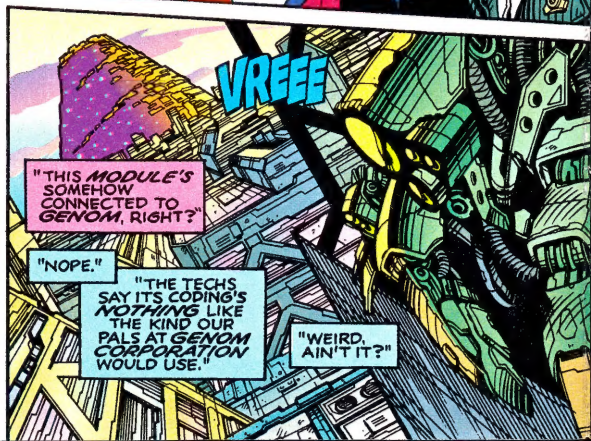
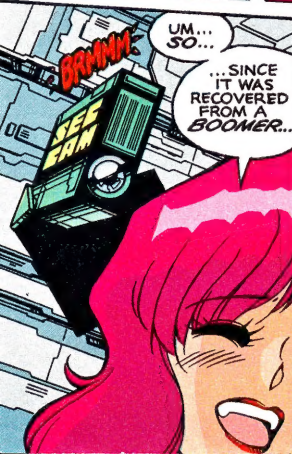
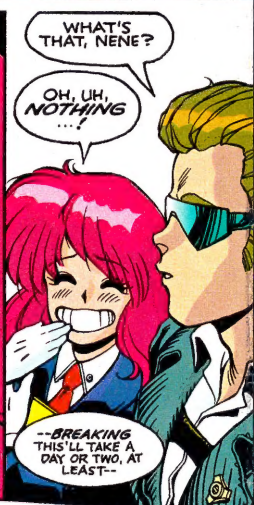
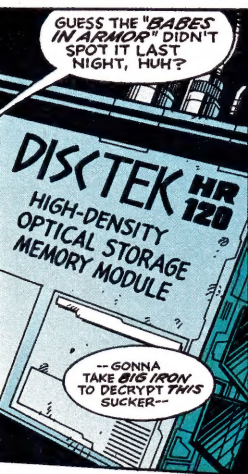
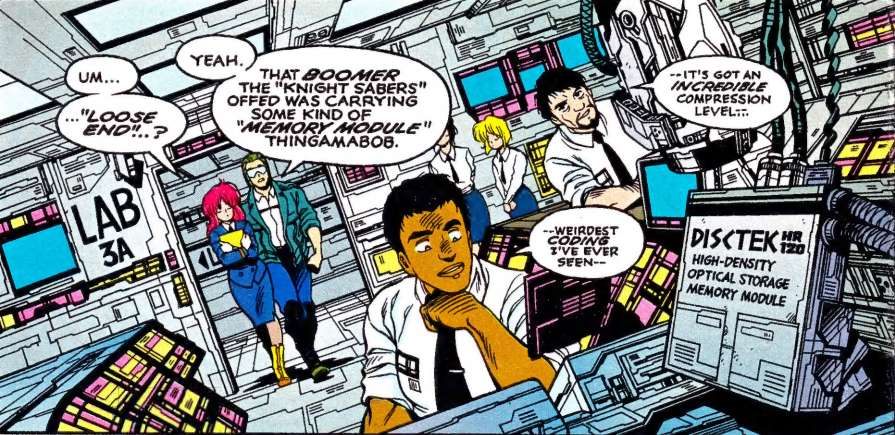
CREATIVE DIRECTOR RANDY STRADLEY

SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR BOB SCHRECK

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR RANDY BOWEN







AUDIO SAMPLES:

"OH, GENOM
TOWER..."

"...YOU KILO-
METER-HIGH
PHALLIC
SYMBOL..."

"LOOMING OVER THE
DWARFED SKYLINE
OF SO-CALLED
'MEGATOKYO'..."

MY,
MY...

...IF IT
ISN'T A FELLOW
"INTELLECTUAL
ASSET..."

"...AS A NONE-TOO-
SUBTLE REMINDER
OF EXACTLY WHO
DOMINATES OUR
WEAK-WILLED CITY
AND NATION...
AND WORLD..."

—AKIRA SASANISHIKI,
"STREET POET"

...FORCED
TO GO
SLUMMING
IN THE
GRAVITY
WELL!

THAT'S
AN APT AND
INSIGHTFUL
SUMMATION OF
MY CURRENT
SITUATION,
CERTAINLY.

STILL
PLAYING
WITH
KNIVES,
I SEE...

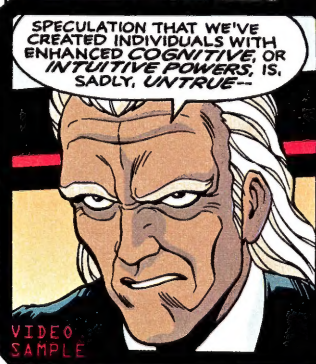
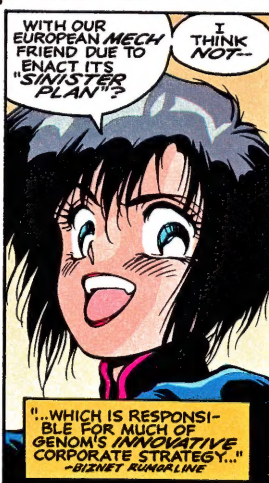
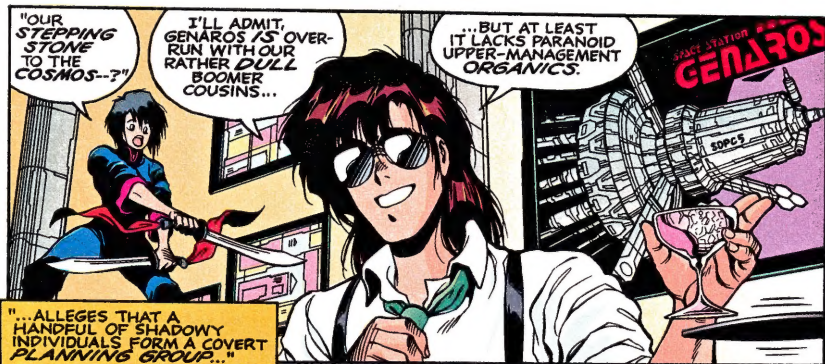
OF
COURSE.

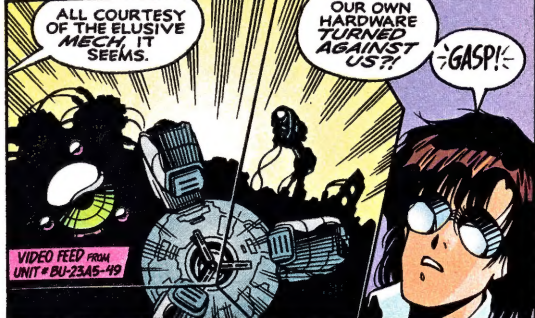
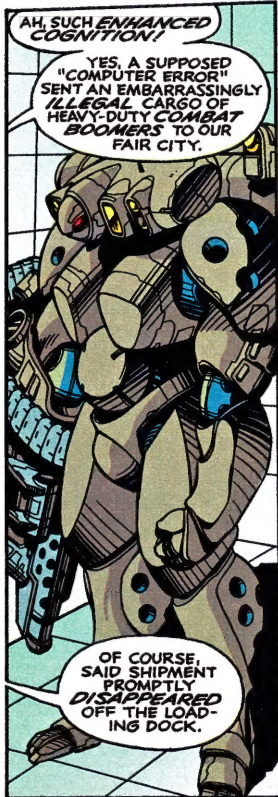
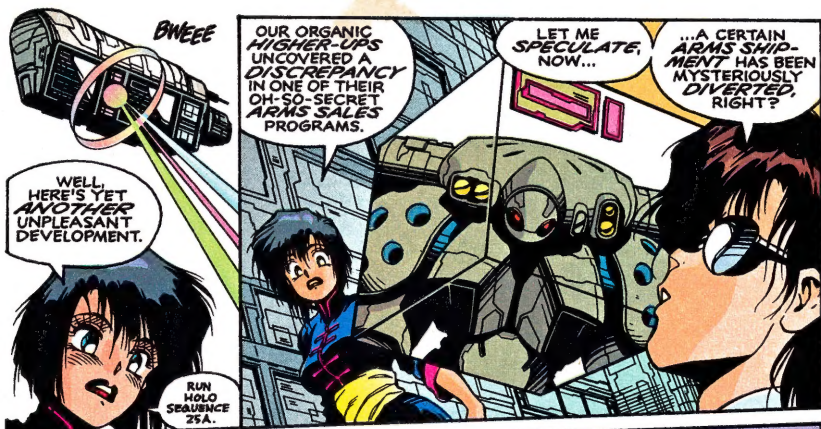
NOTHING EQUALS THE
TWO-SWORD FORMS FOR
RELAXING THE "SEETH-
ING CAULDRON"
OF MY MIND...

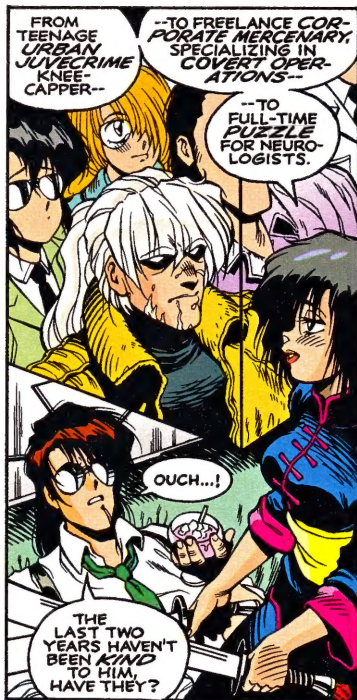
OOH,
SEETHING,
IS IT?

SO...
DID YOU
ENJOY YOUR
STAY ON
GLORIOUS
"SPACE ISLAND
GENAROS"?

"A FASCINATING
RUMOR ABOUT
GENOM'S WORLD-
WIDE SUCCESS..."







FROM
TEENAGE
URBAN
JUVENILE
KNEE-
CAPPER--

--TO FREELANCE COR-
PORATE MERCENARY,
SPECIALIZING IN
COVERT OPER-
ATIONS--

--TO
FULL-TIME
PUZZLE
FOR NEURO-
LOGISTS.

THE
LAST TWO
YEARS HAVEN'T
BEEN KIND
TO HIM,
HAVE THEY?



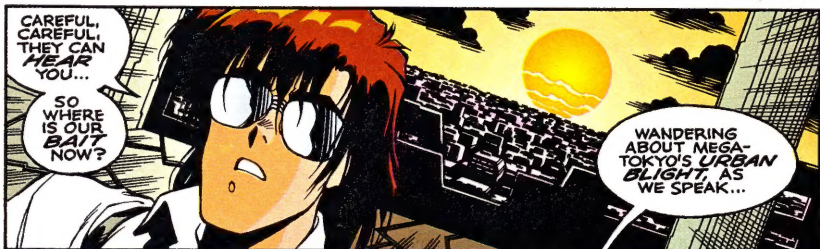
NO. BUT HE
IS THE ONLY
SURVIVOR OF THE
ORIGINAL EX-
TRACTION TEAM
STILL IN A NON-
VEGETATIVE
STATE.

AIRPORT
SURVEILLANCE:
20, 2031



THE ONLY
HUMAN
SURVIVOR,
THAT IS.

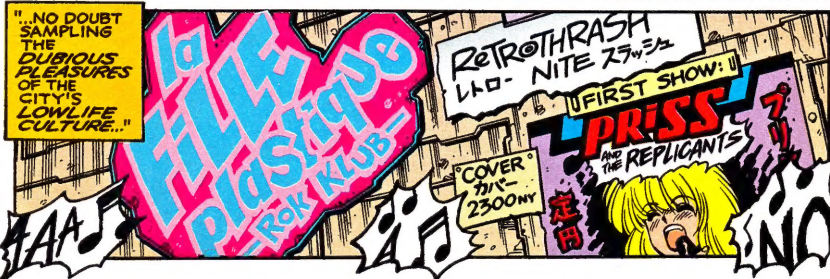
YET
ANOTHER VICTIM
OF OUR ORGANIC
MANAGEMENT'S
MINDLESS
PARANOIA,
YOU MIGHT
SAY...



CAREFUL,
CAREFUL,
THEY CAN
HEAR
YOU...

SO
WHERE
IS OUR
BAIT
NOW?

WANDERING
ABOUT MEGA-
TOKYO'S URBAN
BLIGHT, AS
WE SPEAK...



...NO DOUBT
SAMPLING
THE
DUBIOUS
PLEASURES
OF THE
CITY'S
LOWLIFE
CULTURE...

FILL
FILIPINO
PLASTIQUE
ROK KLUB

RETROTHRASH
110-NITE 7PM-3AM

FIRST SHOW:
PRISS
AND THE REPLICANTS

COVER
カバ-
2300YEN

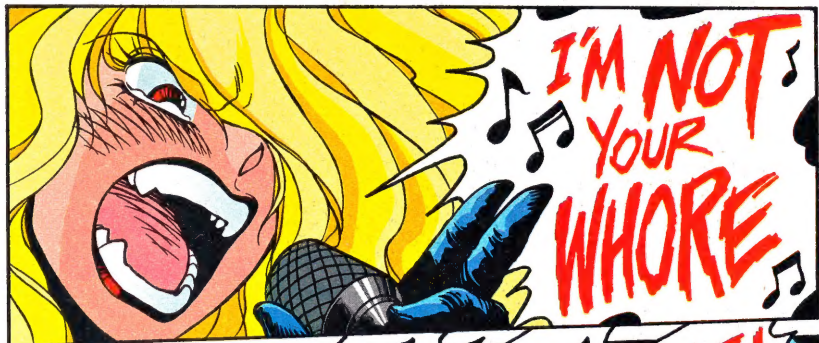
定用

MY
MISSION
IN LIFE--

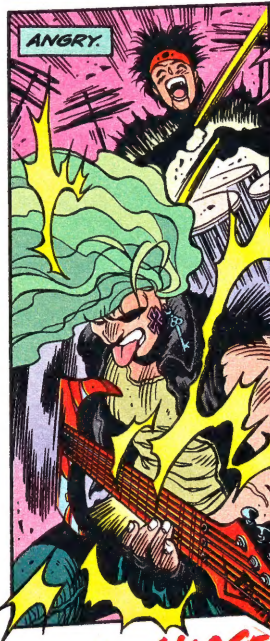
IS TO SEE
YOU
DIE

--BABY.





I'M NOT
YOUR
WHORE



ANGRY.

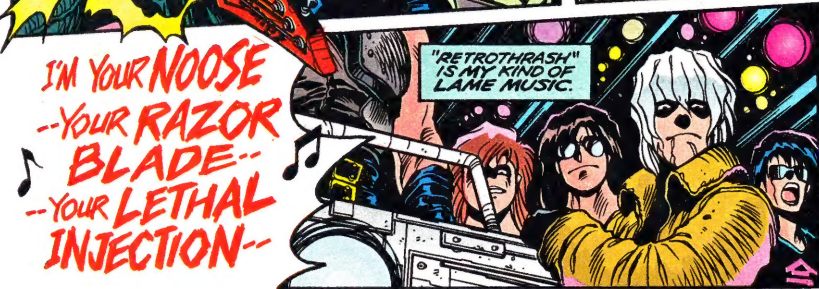


I'M YOUR
ANGEL OF DEATH

FRENZIED.



INCOHERENT.



I'M YOUR NOOSE
--YOUR RAZOR
BLADE--
--YOUR LETHAL
INJECTION--

"RETROTHRASH"
IS MY KIND OF
LAME MUSIC.



NEVER COULD
STOMACH
THE PRISSY
SO-CALLED
"MUSIC"
OF THOSE
MINIMONO
POSEURS...

...OR EVEN THE
FAUVISTS,
WITH THEIR
TRENDY
AUGMENTED
VOCAL CORDS...

...BUT RETROTHRASH
I CAN DEAL WITH, AS LONG
AS IT'S LOUD, FAST,
AND LAUGHABLE.



NOW, THIS BAND'S GOT THE
PERIOD INSTRUMENTA-
TION DOWN...

...AND THE LEAD
SINGER'S NOT
AFRAID TO SPORT
THOSE OUTRE
PERIOD OUTFITS.

HER VOCALS
AREN'T BAD,
EITHER.

VIDEO SAMPLE

--BACK TO YOUR
POLITICAL
VIEWS, PRISS.

NOW,
EXACTLY WHAT
"SERIOUS
STATEMENT"
ARE YOU MAKING
WITH THAT SILLY
BLONDE WIG
AND ANIMAL
LEATHER MINI-
SKIRT?

THE
STATE-
MENT
IS THIS--

--BLEEP!
OFF,
JERK--

SHE SOUNDS LIKE ME
AS A TEENAGER...

YOUNG...
ANGRY...
UTTERLY
WITHOUT
A CLUE.

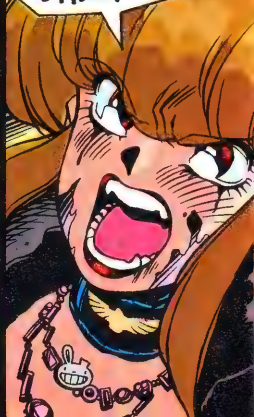


♪ YOU'LL NEVER
CONTROL
MEEEE

VIDEO SAMPLE

--DAMN RIGHT--

I'M NOT LIKE
THE REST OF YOU
SHEEP--



QUIXOTE
IN A
MINISKIRT.

I PARTICULARLY
LIKE THE
SEARING
POLITICAL
INSIGHTS OF
HER LYRICS...

--C'MON--

--SAY IT!

"GENOM SUCKS!"

I
CAN'T
HEAR
YOU--

HMMF.

SO
THIS IS
SYLIA'S NEWEST
ACQUISITION.

VERY
DYNAMIC
ARCHITECTURE...!
->SNORT<

AND NOT
IN A VERY
FASHIONABLE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD,
EITHER...!

OH
WELL.

UM...
HELLO?

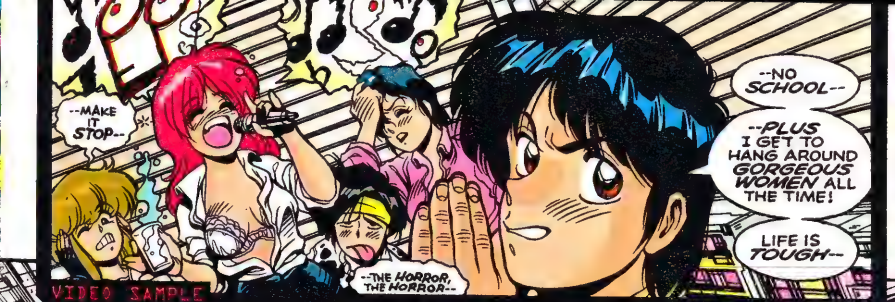
SYLIA?
ANYBODY
HOME?

SKAK!

HELLO,
MACKIE...!

OH,
UH...
HI!

COME
ON IN,
NENE!



--MAKE IT STOP--

--NO SCHOOL--

--PLUS I GET TO HANG AROUND GORGEOUS WOMEN ALL THE TIME!

LIFE IS TOUGH--

--THE HORROR, THE HORROR--

VIDEO SAMPLE

POOR MACKIE...

UH, MORE OR LESS...

...SLAVING AWAY DOWN HERE IN THE DUNGEON ALL DAY...!

HEY, CHECK IT OUT... SYLIA'S HAD ME WORKING ON SOMETHING NEW AND FUNKY!

SAY, "HI!" BOY!



'S A SEMI-AUTONOMOUS FLIGHT-CAPABLE SUPPORT MECH...

GYEEK--!



...A NEW TOY FOR YOU GUYS TO PLAY WITH!

I'LL STICK TO STUFFED ANIMALS, THANKS...



SYLIA CALLS IT A 'MOTOROID'...

...BUT PRISS PREFERS "MOTORSLAVE."

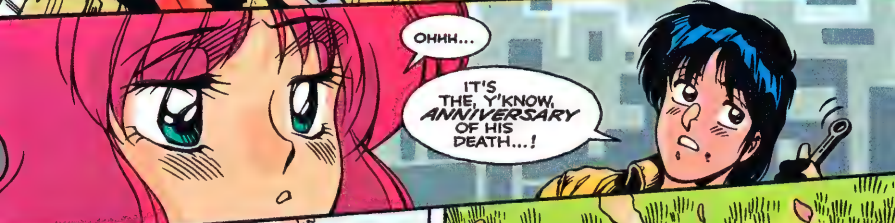
SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT AVER, I GUESS.



THAT'S FOR SURE...

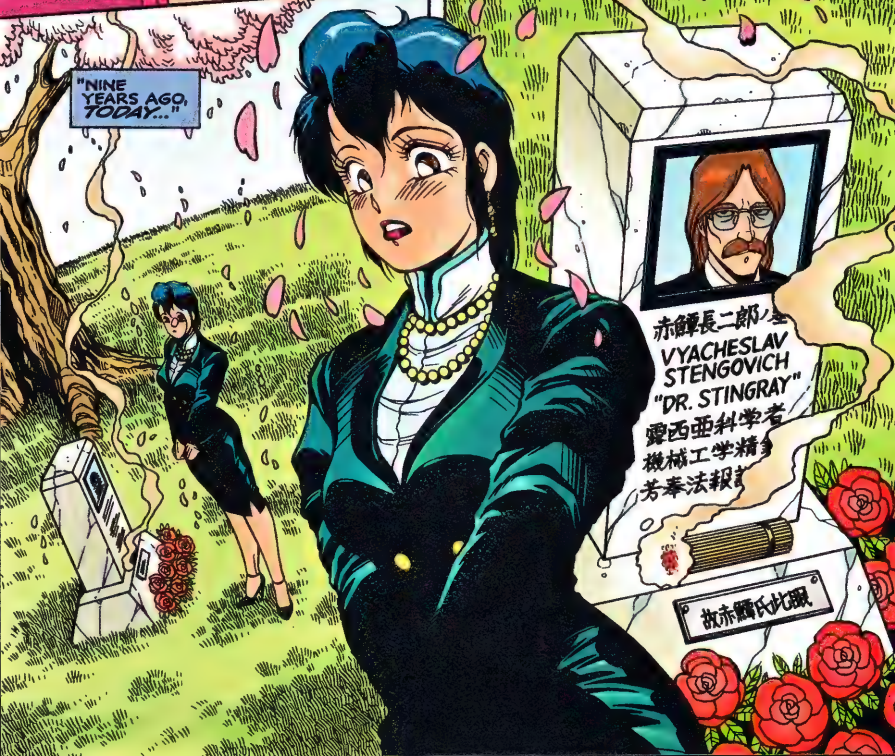
UM... SO... WHERE'S YOUR SISTER? I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS FOR HER...

OOPS... SORRY, SYLIA'S, UH, "VISITING" DAD RIGHT NOW.



OHMM...

IT'S THE, Y'KNOW, ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH...!



"NINE YEARS AGO, TODAY..."

赤蟬長二郎
VYACHESLAV STENGOVICH
"DR. STINGRAY"
露西亞科學者
機械工學精
芳奉法報

故赤蟬氏此照

VIDEO SAMPLE

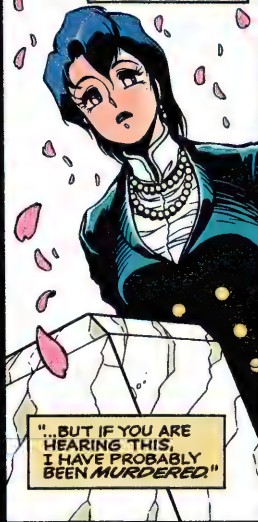
--PERHAPS THE MOST
SIGNIFICANT
ASPECT OF DR.
STINGRAY'S RESEARCH--

--WAS HIS DEVELOPMENT
OF THE BOOMERS' FORM
OF ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE--



"SYLIA.

"PLEASE
PARDON THE
MELODRAMA...



"...BUT IF YOU ARE
HEARING THIS,
I HAVE PROBABLY
BEEN MURDERED."

VIDEO SAMPLE

--WITH A RESULT
CLOSELY ANALO-
GOUS TO HUMAN
CONSCIOUSNESS.

EXACTLY HOW
THIS WAS ACHIEVED
REMAINS GENOM'S
TRADE SECRET.



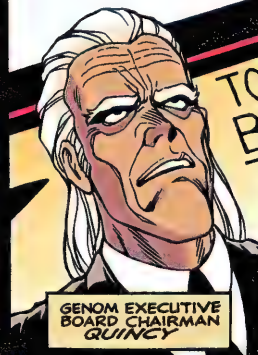
"I MUST LEAVE SOME
COUNTER TO GENOM'S
CERTAIN ABUSE
OF MY WORK.

"YOU WILL BE
THAT COUNTER,
SYLIA."



--OF COURSE, WE
ARE FOREVER
INDEBTED TO THE
BRILLIANT WORK OF
THE LATE DR.
STINGRAY.

WITHOUT
HIS IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTIONS,
GENOM CORPORATION MIGHT NEVER
HAVE--

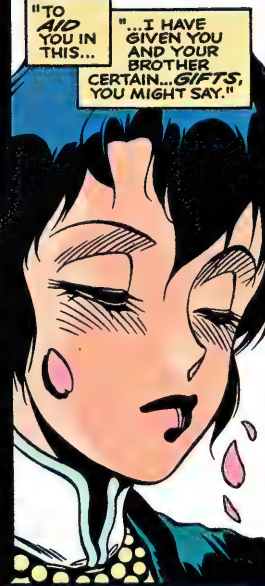


GENOM EXECUTIVE
BOARD CHAIRMAN
QUINCY

VIDEO SAMPLE

"TO
AID
YOU IN
THIS..."

"...I HAVE
GIVEN YOU
AND YOUR
BROTHER
CERTAIN... GIFTS,
YOU MIGHT SAY."



LET ME
ADD...

...DR. STINGRAY
WAS **ALSO** A
CLOSE PERSONAL
FRIEND... **CHOKE**

VIDEO
SAMPLE

"...AND, IN
THE EVENT,
THAT, AH,
DIRECT
ACTION
AGAINST
GENOM IS
REQUIRED..."

"...I'VE ALSO LEFT
YOU TECHNICAL
INFORMATION
REGARDING A
PROMISING TYPE
OF **COMBAT**
ARMOR I'VE BEEN
DEVELOPING..."

VIDEO
SAMPLE

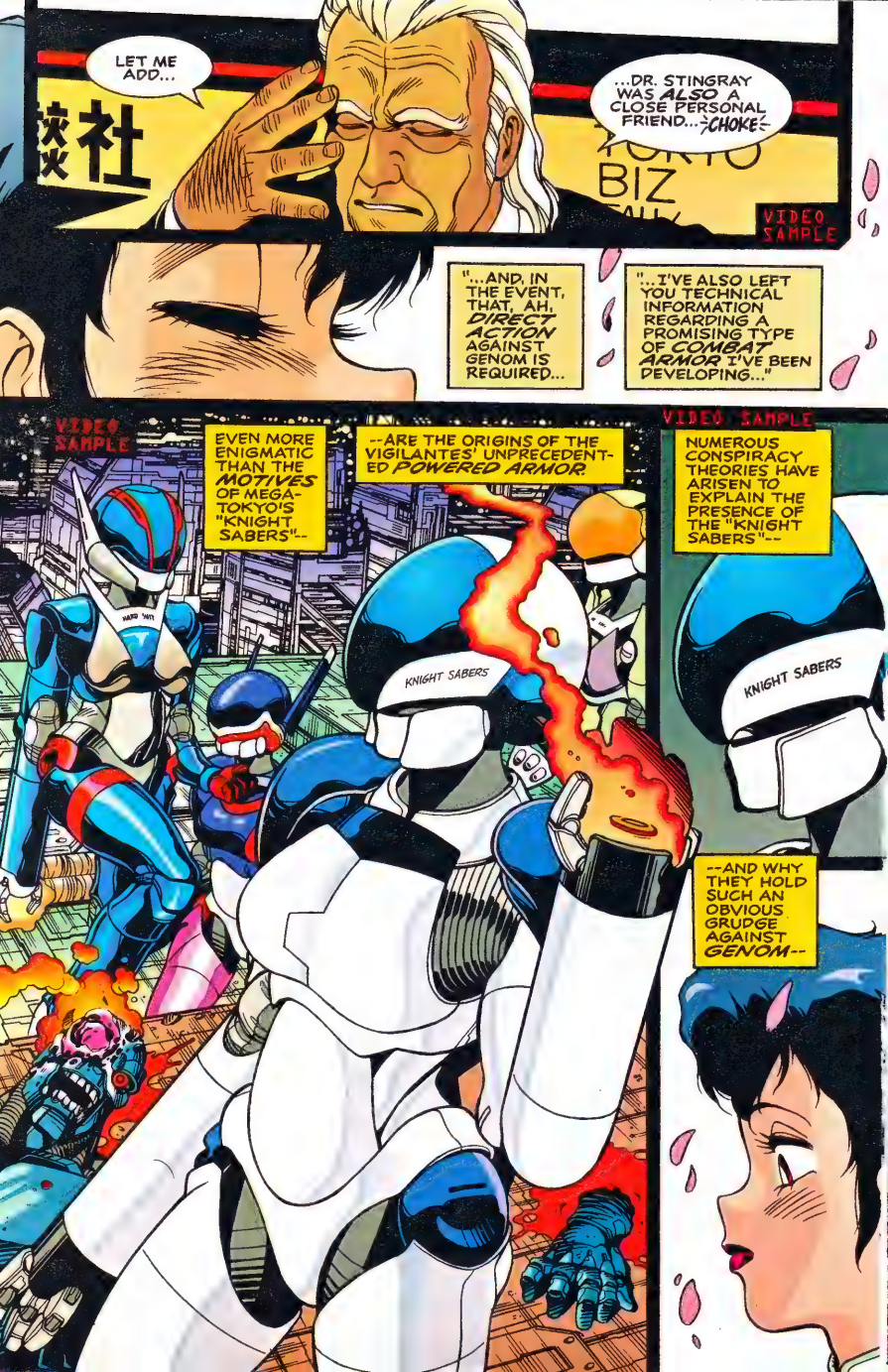
EVEN MORE
ENIGMATIC
THAN THE
MOTIVES
OF MEGA-
TOKYO'S
"KNIGHT
SABERS"--

-- ARE THE ORIGINS OF THE
VIGILANTES' UNPRECEDENT-
ED **POWERED** ARMOR

VIDEO SAMPLE

NUMEROUS CONSPIRACY
THEORIES HAVE
ARISEN TO
EXPLAIN THE
PRESENCE OF
THE "KNIGHT
SABERS"--

--AND WHY
THEY HOLD
SUCH AN
OBVIOUS
GRUDGE
AGAINST
GENOM--

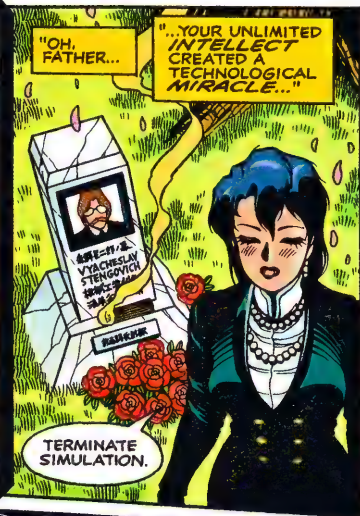




--THE "KNIGHT SABERS"
ARE NOTHING MORE
THAN **TERRORISTS**,
CRIMINALS WHO
DESERVE TO BE--

差

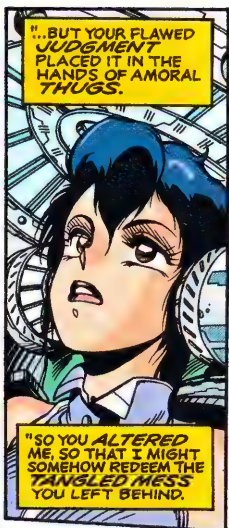
VIDEO
SAMPLE



"OH,
FATHER..."

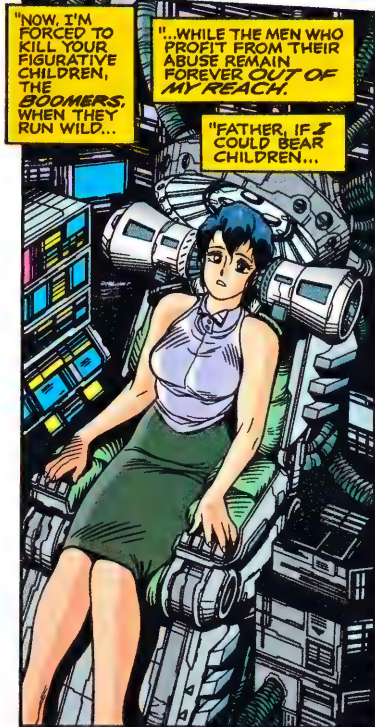
"...YOUR UNLIMITED
INTELLECT
CREATED A
TECHNOLOGICAL
MIRACLE..."

TERMINATE
SIMULATION.



"...BUT YOUR FLAWED
JUDGMENT
PLACED IT IN THE
HANDS OF AMORAL
THUGS.

"SO YOU **ALTERED**
ME, SO THAT I MIGHT
SOMEHOW REDEEM THE
TANGLED MESS
YOU LEFT BEHIND.



"NOW, I'M
FORCED TO
KILL YOUR
FIGURATIVE
CHILDREN,
THE
BOOMERS,
WHEN THEY
RUN WILD..."

"...WHILE THE MEN WHO
PROFIT FROM THEIR
ABUSE REMAIN
FOREVER **OUT OF**
MY REACH.

"FATHER, IF I
COULD BEAR
CHILDREN..."



"...I'D WANT TO
LEAVE THEM A
LESS **HOPELESS**
AND **AGONIZING**
LEGACY THAN THE
ONE YOU LEFT ME."

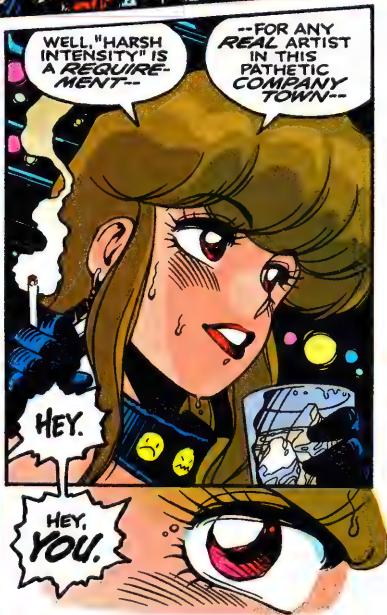
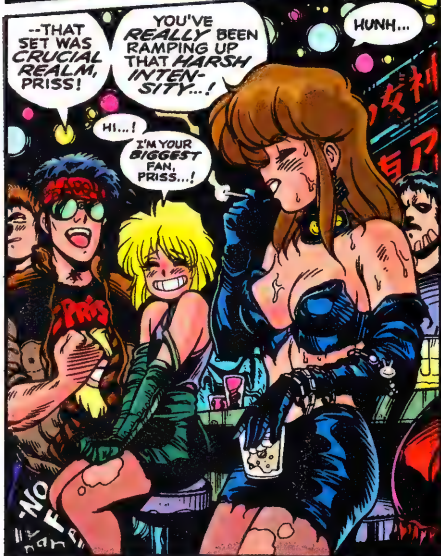
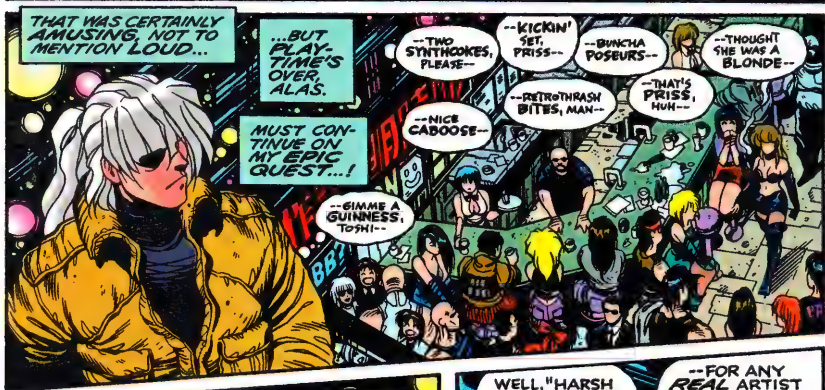
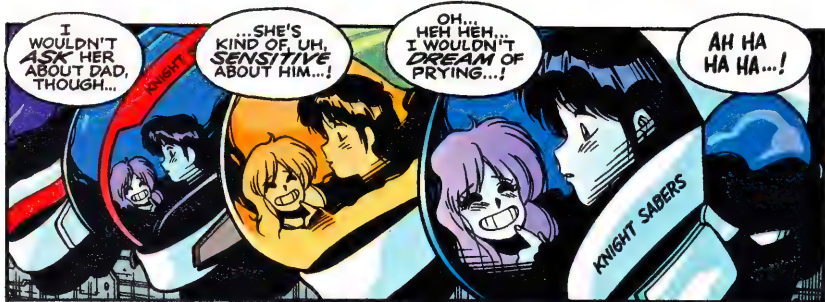
-EXCERPTS FROM
SYLIA STINGRAY'S
PRIVATE RECORDS.



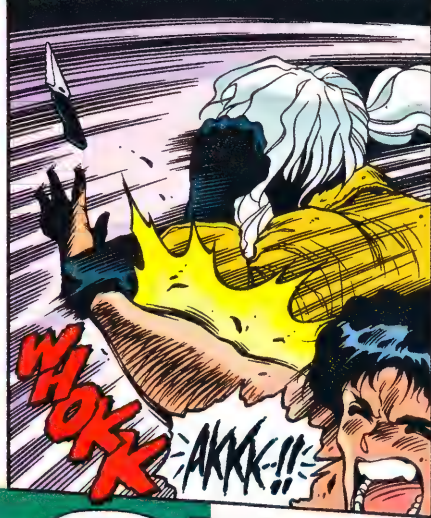
WELL, SYLIA
DOES
SEEM TO
HAVE MIXED
FEELINGS
ABOUT
DAD.

NOT
THAT
I KNOW
WHY...

HMMM...
I
WONDER
WHAT--





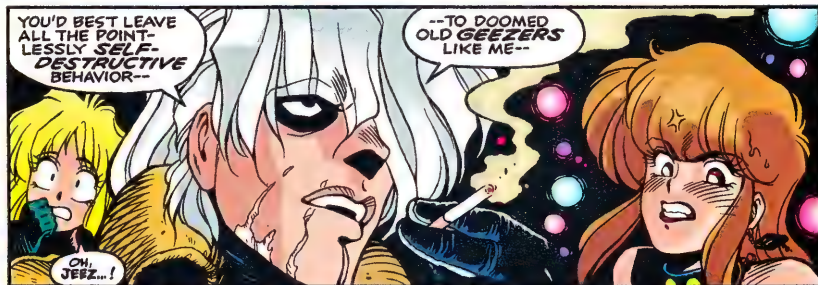
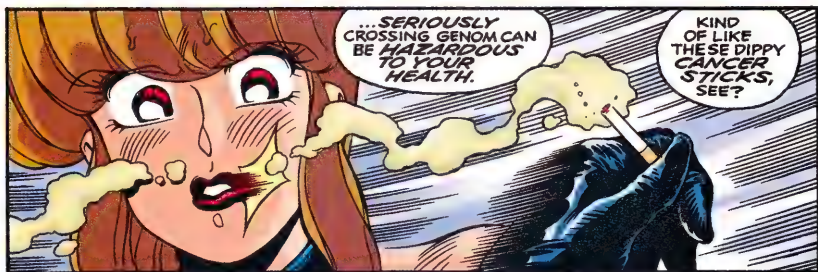
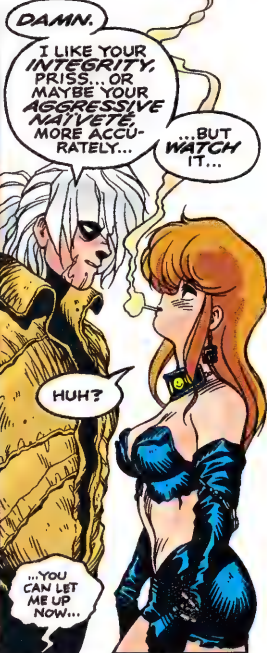
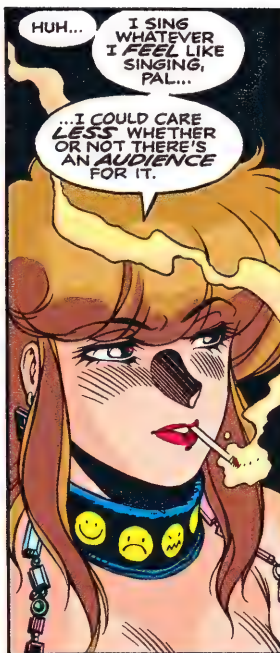
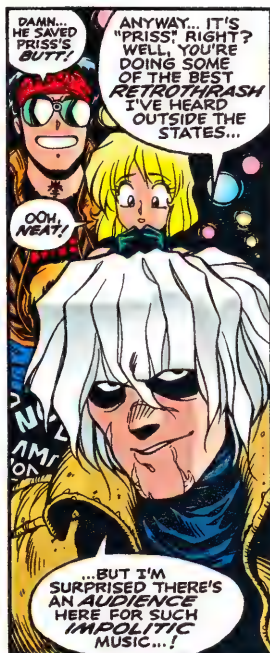


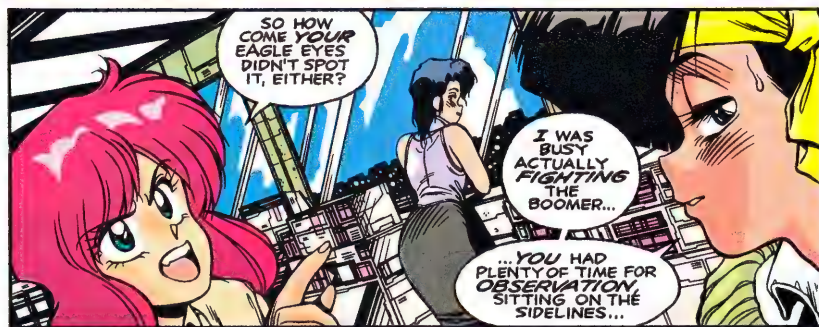
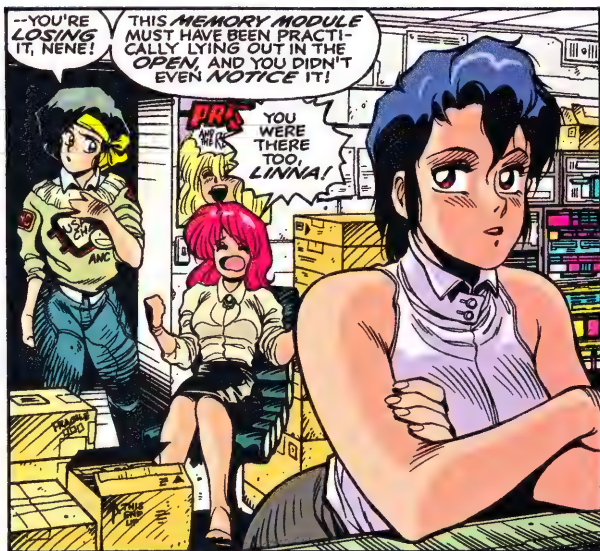
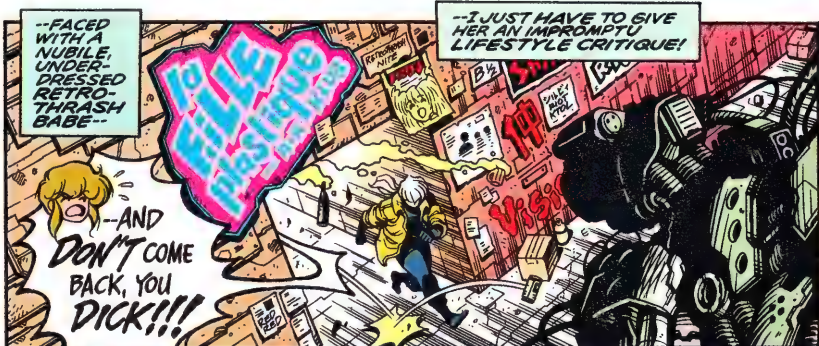
HUH...

I'M NOT TOO BIG A FAN OF GENOM, MYSELF...

HEY, NEITHER IS ANYBODY WITH AN OPERATIVE BRAIN CELL...!

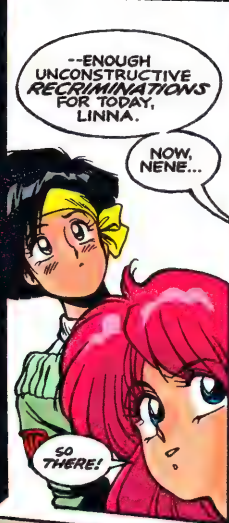
OWWWW...







HA!
I
CONTRIBUTE
TO THE KNIGHT
SABERS WITH
MY **GOOD
LOOKS AND
AMAZING
BRAIN!**



--ENOUGH
UNCONSTRUCTIVE
RECRIMINATIONS
FOR TODAY,
LINNA.

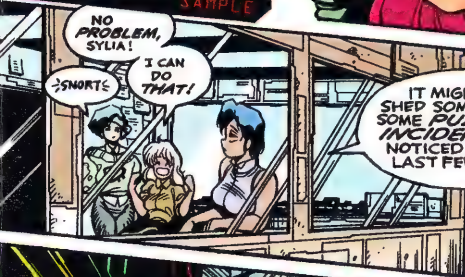
NOW,
NENE...

SO
THERE!



...AS
SOON AS YOU
CAN MANAGE
IT...

...I'LL NEED
TO SEE A COPY OF
THE ADPOLICE'S
ANALYSIS OF
THIS MODULE'S
CONTENTS.



NO
PROBLEM,
SYLIA!

I CAN
DO
THAT!

SNORTS

IT MIGHT JUST
SHED SOME LIGHT ON
SOME **PUZZLING
INCIDENTS** I'VE
NOTICED OVER THE
LAST FEW MONTHS--



DAMN IT--



--ANOTHER
SEIZURE
STARTING,
SO SOON
AFTER THE
LAST ONE--!

TOO
SOON--



--BUT
IT **IS** IRONIC,
WHEN YOU
CONSIDER HOW
VASHNEVSKAYA
ACQUIRED HIS
PARTICULAR CON-
DITION--!

--GOT TO GET
AWAY FROM ANY
POTENTIAL
VICTIMS--



SOME-
THING
IN MY
MOUTH--?

GUGHK!
PPOO=

SEVERED
FINGERS.

NOT MINE.
THIS TIME...

THEY'RE
BOTH DEAD...
MANGLED...

THANK YOU,
GENOM.

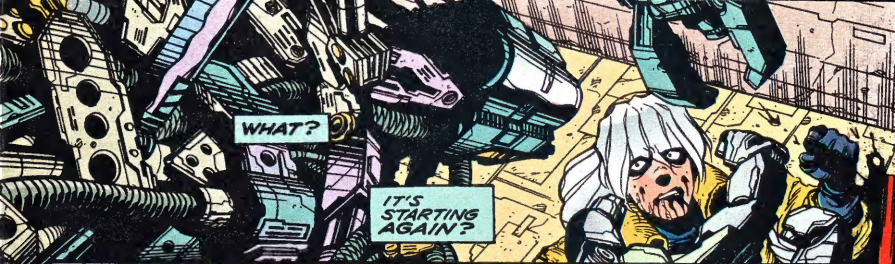
"AGGRESSIVE
NAIVETE"
HUH?

POMPOUS
ASS...!

HUNH.
"POINTLESSLY
SELF-
DESTRUCTIVE
BEHAVIOR"--

THE BASTARDS
COULDN'T SEE
FIT TO KILL ME
OUTRIGHT,
COULD THEY--

--IS
TALKING
TO ME LIKE
THAT--!



MESSING WITH
GENOM'S BAD
FOR YOUR
HEALTH,
IS IT?

LIKE
HE KNOWS
ANYTHING
ABOUT
IT!



--THIS
IS
REAL--

UCHHKK

VRRR

KCHAK



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